CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1.   A method for management of a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the method comprising:

10   representing the distributed data processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of network-related objects;

associating each scope with a management customer; and

15   allowing an administrative user to configure the distributed data processing system.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data

20 processing system.

3.   An apparatus for management of a distributed data
processing system, wherein the distributed data
processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of
management customers, the apparatus comprising:

5   means for representing the distributed data
processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope
comprises a logical organization of network-related
objects;

        means for associating each scope with a management
10   customer; and

        means for allowing an administrative user to
configure the distributed data processing system.

4.   The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:
15   means for dynamically reconfiguring the distributed
data processing system.

5. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for managing a distributed data processing system, wherein the distributed data processing system is managed on behalf of a plurality of management customers, the computer program product comprising:

    instructions for representing the distributed data processing system as a set of scopes, wherein a scope comprises a logical organization of network-related objects;

    instructions for associating each scope with a management customer; and

    instructions for allowing an administrative user to configure the distributed data processing system.

6. The computer program product of claim 5 further comprising:

    instructions for dynamically reconfiguring the distributed data processing system.